VII. *Exclusive Test for promotions of SC/ST candidates*

Special promotion test are also conducted for ST|SC candidates wherever considered necessary.

Introduction of Zero-Based Budgeting in all the Departments

1606. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce zero-based budgeting in all departments in 1986-87 and complete the implementation in 1987-88;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and what are its exact implication and what are the reasons for introducing it; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government of curb spending and what will be the saving by the proposed five per cent cut in non-plan expenditure

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The need for the Central Government Departments to adopt zero-based budgeting has been recognised in principle. This requires identification and charpening of objectives' examination of various alternatives of performing identified task, cost-benefit analyses, prioritisation of objectives and activities, identification and elimination of redundant activities and designing and ranking decision packages. Zero based budgeting has been introduced in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the coverage may later be extended to other scientific departments in due course with suitable modifications. It is proposed to commence zero based budgeting in the Central Government from 1986-87 to be effective from the Budget for 1987-88.

(c) Measures are taken on continuous basis to curb non-essential and non-productive expenditure. In recent times, Government issued orders banning creation of posts|filling up of vacancies except in the most exceptional circumstances. Efforts are made through work measurement studies to identify and locate surplus staff and prevent creation of avoidable posts. Measures have also been taken to curb office expenditure like those on telephones staff cars, consumption of petrol, etc.

A Working Group under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been set up to review all on-going activities and organisations and to discontinue those which have lost their utility.

Instructions have also been issued to various Ministries/Departments to effect a minimum 5 per cent reduction in their total non-plan provision for 1985-86. The amount of savings likely to arise from the above exercise will be incorporated in the Revised estimates for the current year to be presented alongwith the Budget for 1996-87.

1607. [*Transferred to the 11th December, 1985.*]

News-Item Captioned "Poor Quality Services Mar India's Image"

1608. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Poor Quality services mar India's image" which appeared in the *Economic Times* of 16th September, 1985;

(b) if so, what Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to improve India's image in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Continuous attention is being paid to the quality of products ex-